

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 EB-07 TRSE-00 /098 W

----- 054468

R 090647Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6995

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 9876

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 33349

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER THANIN

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 7001

SUMMARY: AT KING'S BIRTHDAY RECEPTION DEC 6 I WAS BUTTON-HOLED BY PRIME MINISTER THANIN, WHO SAID HE WAS ANXIOUS TO HAVE A LONG PRIVATE CHAT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THANIN SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS TIME THE ASEAN COUNTRIES STOOD TOGETHER AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS. ANY SUCH COMMON FRONT SHOULD BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH U.S., THANIN CONTINUED, BUT HE WAS NOT RPT NOT THINKING OF REVIVING SEATO. I SAID I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO MEET WITH THE PM AT ANY TIME. IN SUCH A MEETING I WILL, OF COURSE, BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS ABOUT ANY U.S. ROLE IN SECURITY RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE ASEAN COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

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1. AT KING'S BIRTHDAY RECEPTION I WAS BUTTONHOLED BY

PRIME MINISTER THANIN WHO SAID HE WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO HAVE A LONG PRIVATE CHAT AND SUGGESTED WE LUNCH IN HIS OFFICE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. (COMMENT: AS HE IS OFF TO JAKARTA ON DEC 10 I DOUBT THAT THIS WILL COME OFF.)

2. PRIME MINISTER THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT WAS TIME THE ASEAN COUNTRIES STOOD TOGETHER AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAKE A COMMON FRONT AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF COUNTRIES IN THE AREA. ANY SOUTHEAST ASIAN GROUPING OF THIS KIND SHOULD OF COURSE BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE U.S. HE WAS NOT RPT NOT THINKING OF REVIVING SEATO, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DEVISE SOMETHING. HE UNDERSTOOD THE CURRENT AMERICAN ATTITUDE TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WE ALL STAND TOGETHER. HE WANTED TO TALK ALL THIS OVER WITH ME AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

3. I WAS NOT ABLE TO GET IN A WORD EDGEWISE BUT DID MAKE CLEAR THAT I SHOULD BE DELIGHTED TO MEET THE PM ANY TIME.

4. COMMENT: AS WAS REPORTED IN KUALA LUMPUR 7001, THE POSSIBILITY OF MORE FORMAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AMONG THE ASEAN COUNTRIES IS VERY MUCH ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S MIND. I WILL, OF COURSE, BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN DISCUSSING ANY AMERICAN ROLE. I BELIEVE THANIN UNDERSTANDS OUR POSITION BUT IS A BIT CARRIED AWAY WITH HIS OWN IDEA. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE OTHER ASEAN LEADERS WILL SLOW HIM DOWN IN THE COURSE OF THE CURRENT ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS TAKING PLACE AMONG ASEAN LEADERS. WHITEHOUSE

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